

Mahatma Gandhi (Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, 1869–1948) was the iconic leader of India's independence movement, renowned for pioneering nonviolent civil disobedience (*satyagraha*) to end British rule, making him the "Father of the Nation" and a global inspiration for civil rights, including Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela. Born in Porbandar, India, he studied law in London, developed his philosophy fighting racial injustice in South Africa, and returned to lead massive peaceful protests like the Salt March, advocating truth, nonviolence, and Indian self-reliance (Swadeshi).

### **Key Aspects of His Life & Philosophy:**

- **Birth & Early Life:** Born October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, Gujarat, he married Kasturba Gandhi at 13, later studying law in London.
- **South Africa (1893-1914):** Faced racial discrimination, organizing Indians through nonviolent resistance, which shaped his core beliefs.
- **Satyagraha (Truth Force):** His philosophy of nonviolent resistance, rooted in truth (*Satya*) and non-violence (*Ahimsa*).
- **Indian Independence Movement:** Became a central figure in the Indian National Congress, advocating for Swaraj (self-rule).
- **Major Protests:** Led pivotal campaigns, most famously the 1930 Salt March to protest the British salt monopoly, and encouraged boycotts of British goods.
- **Principles:** Promoted religious tolerance, caste equality, and self-sufficiency (Swadeshi).
- **Assassination & Legacy:** Assassinated on January 30, 1948, by a Hindu fanatic, his life and methods continue to inspire global movements for justice and freedom.